

92 3(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said imaging procedure is a gradient echo or echo planar imaging procedure.

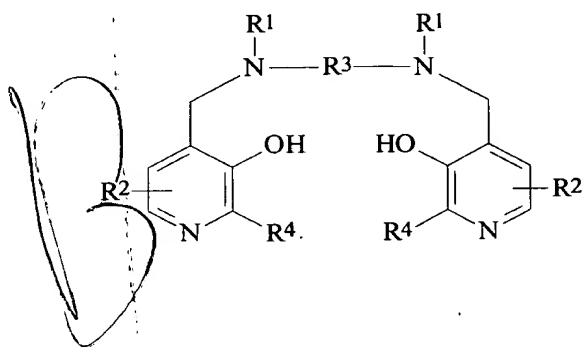
5(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein said imaging procedure is one in which TI (inversion time) is 100 to 800 msecs, TR (repetition time) is 2000 msecs and TE (echo time) is less than 20 msecs.

6(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said manganese complex or salt thereof is administered at a dosage of 0.005 to 0.2 mmol/kg bodyweight.

8(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said manganese complex is a manganese chelate complex having a K_a value of from 10^7 to 10^{25} .

10(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said chelate has a K_a value smaller by a factor of at least 10^3 than the K_a value of the corresponding ferric (Fe^{3+}) chelate.

11(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said manganese chelate comprises a chelating compound of formula I:



or a salt thereof

(wherein in formula I

each R^1 independently represents hydrogen or $-CH_2COR^5$;

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cont
R⁵ represents hydroxy, optionally hydroxylated alkoxy, amino or alkylamido;

each R² independently represents a group XYR⁶;

X represents a bond, or a C₁₋₃ alkylene or oxoalkylene group optionally substituted by a group R⁷;

Y represents a bond, an oxygen atom or a group NR⁶;

R⁶ is a hydrogen atom, a group COOR⁸, an alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from COOR⁸, CONR⁸₂, NR⁸₂, OR⁸, =NR⁸, =O, OP(O)(OR⁸)R⁷ and OSO₃M;

R⁷ is hydroxy, an optionally hydroxylated, optionally alkoxyated alkyl or aminoalkyl group;

R⁸ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally hydroxylated, optionally alkoxyated alkyl group;

M is a hydrogen atom or one equivalent of a physiologically tolerable cation;

R³ represents a C₁₋₈ alkylene group, a 1,2-cycloalkylene group, or a 1,2-arylene group; and

each R⁴ independently represents hydrogen or C₁₋₃ alkyl).

13(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein in formula I, R³ is ethylene and each group R¹ represents -CH₂COR⁵ in which R⁵ is hydroxy.

14(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 11 in which the compound of formula I is N,N'-bis-(pyridoxal-5-phosphate)-ethylenediamine-N,N'-diacetic acid (DPDP) or N,N'-dipyridoxyl-ethylenediamine-N,N'-diacetic acid (PLED).

15(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said chelate complex is a complex of a linear, branched or macrocyclic chelant selected from polyaminopolycarboxylic acid chelants and carboxylic acid derivatives thereof.

Please cancel claims 17-30 without prejudice or disclaimer.